

What a Navigator **IS**:

- Systems Change Agent
- Problem-Solver
- Relationship Builder
- Resource
- Facilitator

What a Navigator is **NOT**:

- Case Manager
- Front-line Staff Person in the Workforce Center
- BPAO Specialist
- VR Specialist

attach business card here



Disability Access Symbols - <http://www.gag.org/resources/das.php>

DPN Resources:

Disability Program Navigator site:

<http://disability.law.uiowa.edu/dpn/>

Navigator Resource Index:

http://disability.law.uiowa.edu/dpn/video/2003_navigator_resources/index.html

One-Stop Toolkit:

<http://www.onestoptoolkit.org/>

Navigator Audio Conference Series:

<http://disability.law.uiowa.edu/dpn/audio/>

SSA:

<http://www.socialsecurity.gov/disabilityresearch/navigator.htm>

Disability
Program
Navigator
Initiative



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EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING ADMINISTRATION
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

DOL & SSA

The DPN Initiative

The Department of Labor (DOL) and the Social Security Administration (SSA) have jointly established a new position, the **Disability Program Navigator**, located within DOL's One-Stop Career Centers.

- DOL's Employment and Training Administration and SSA's Office of Program Development and Research signed an Interagency Agreement in September 2002 to jointly fund, implement, pilot, and evaluate the Navigator Initiative.
- DOL, with input from SSA, has entered into cooperative agreements with the state level workforce system in 30 states and the District of Columbia: Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Hawaii, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Oklahoma, Oregon, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia and Wisconsin.

Complex rules surrounding entitlement programs, along with fear of losing cash assistance and health benefits, can often discourage people with disabilities from working. DOL and SSA have established the Disability Program Navigator (DPN) Initiative to better inform beneficiaries and other people with disabilities about the work support programs now available at DOL-funded One-Stop Career Centers.

This Initiative is developing new/ongoing partnerships to achieve seamless, comprehensive, and integrated access to services, creating systemic change, and expanding the workforce development system's capacity to serve customers with disabilities and employers.

“ Because of the Navigator pilot project in Chicago and similar efforts in One-Stops throughout the country, we are beginning to level the playing field for people with disabilities seeking employment. ”

- Dan Dickerson, Illinois Lead Disability Program Navigator

“ Because of the Navigator, I understand how people with disabilities can be employed in the workplace. Most reasonable accommodations can be met with little cost and employers get qualified people that might otherwise be overlooked. ”

- Bob Rivers, Business Services Representative, Boulder, CO

THE DPN Position - The Navigators:

- Guide One-Stop staff in helping people with disabilities access and navigate the complex provisions of various programs that impact their ability to gain/retain employment.
- Develop linkages and collaborate on an ongoing basis with employers to facilitate job placements for persons with disabilities.
- Develop partnerships to achieve integrated services, systemic change, and expand the capacity to serve customers with disabilities.
- Facilitate the transition of in- or out-of-school youth with disabilities to obtain employment and economic self-sufficiency.
- Conduct outreach to agencies/organizations that serve people with disabilities.
- Serve as resources on SSA's: work incentives and employment support programs and the provision of services through Benefits Planning, Assistance and Outreach organizations (BPAO's); Protection and Advocacy systems (P & A's); and employment-related demonstration projects.
- Serve as resources on the Federal, State, local and private programs that impact the ability of person with disabilities to enter and remain in the workforce.